

Saint Peter School News September, 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome Back to another year and the first school year for our Kindergarten children. Our teachers look forward to working with you to ensure that your child enjoys coming to school and that each student grows spiritually, academically, socially, and emotionally. Pope Francis always speaks of accompaniment and we strive to imitate that in both our success and our challenges. This message from Pope Francis was beautifully articulated in his homily this summer at the World Meeting of Families: "Today we bring before God with gratitude – as if in a great offertory procession – all the fruits that the Holy Spirit has sown in you, dear families... I think of the rich variety of experiences, plans and dreams, as well as concerns and uncertainties, which you have shared with one another. Let us now present all of these to the Lord and ask him to sustain you with his strength and love. You are fathers, mothers and children, grandparents, uncles and aunts. You are adults and children, young and old. Each of you brings a different experience of family, but all of you have one hope and prayer: that God will bless and keep your families and all the families of the world. Saint Paul, in today's second reading, spoke to us about freedom. Freedom is one of the most cherished ideals and goals of the people of our time. Everyone wants to be free, free of conditioning and limitations, free of every kind of "prison", cultural, social or economic. Yet, how many people lack the greatest freedom of all, which is interior freedom! The greatest freedom is interior freedom. The Apostle reminds us Christians that interior freedom is above all a gift, when he says: "For freedom Christ has set us free!"... All of you married couples, in building your family, made, with the help of Christ's grace, a courageous decision: *not to use freedom for yourselves, but to love the persons that God has put at your side.* Instead of living like little islands, you became "slaves of one another". That is how freedom is exercised in the family. There are no "planets" or "satellites", each travelling on its own orbit. The family is the place of encounter, of sharing, of going forth from ourselves in order to welcome others and stand beside them. The family is *the first place where we learn to love.* We must never forget that the family is the first place where we learn to love. Brothers and sisters, even as we reaffirm this with profound conviction, we also know full well that it is not always the case, for any number of reasons and a variety of situations. And so, in praising the beauty of the family, we also feel compelled, today more than ever, to *defend the family.* Let us not allow the family to be poisoned by the toxins of selfishness, individualism, today's culture of indifference and culture of waste, and as a result lose its very DNA, which is the spirit of acceptance and service. The mark of the family is acceptance and the spirit of service within the family....Dear parents, the word of God shows us the way: not to shield our children from the slightest hardship and suffering, but to try to communicate to them a passion for life, to arouse in them the desire to discover their vocation and embrace the great mission that God has in mind for them. ... In a similar way, nothing can be more

encouraging for children than to see their parents experiencing marriage and family life as a mission, demonstrating fidelity and patience despite difficulties, moments of sadness and times of trial. What Jesus

encountered in Samaria takes place in every Christian vocation, including that of the family. We all know that there are moments when we have to take upon ourselves the resistance, opposition, rejection and misunderstanding born of human hearts and, with the grace of Christ, transform these into acceptance of others and gratuitous love...To follow Jesus means to set out on a never-ending "trip" with him through the events of life... That is what it means to journey with the Lord. It is a lively, unpredictable and marvelous voyage of discovery. Let us remember that every disciple of Jesus finds his or her repose in doing God's will each day, wherever it may lead."

8th Grade Confirmation Retreat

Our 8th Grade students are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. They will have a special retreat on Sept 24. More details will follow.

Welcome Back Mrs. Vaupel as Primary Art Teacher

We warmly welcome back Mrs. Vaupel as our Primary Art Teacher. Mrs. Vaupel, who has proven herself to be so versatile and gifted in many areas, will now be teaching Art to Kinder through 3rd Grade.

Back to School Night

We invite all our families to come on Thursday, September 8 to meet our teachers and staff. We will begin at 6:30pm in Church and then we will come to school for you to meet your child's teacher. We wish to see all of you at this meeting so we can all be united in your child's academic and spiritual journey. The class with the best participation will have an ice cream party.

Saint Peter School Spirit Night at Wendy's

On Monday, Sept. 12 our school will participate in a fundraising event which will also be a fun evening. Please join us between 5:00pm - 8:00pm at the Wendy's, 712 Penn Avenue in West Reading. 10% of sales will be donated to Saint Peter School. We look forward to a fun time as a school community with parents and their children.

PTO Meeting

Our first meeting for this year will be on Thursday, Sept. 15 at 6:30pm in school. We look forward to re-uniting with all our faithful members as well as welcoming new members.

PTO Fall Family Bingo

On Saturday, Sept. 17, we will have our fall family Bingo in the Social Hall. It should be a fun family day with nice prizes and selling of refreshments such as hot dogs, funnel cakes, pastelitos and other snacks.

Skating Party

Our first Skating Party, a fun-filled family event will be on Thursday, September 22 from 6:30-8:30 at Skate-away on Lancaster Avenue in Shillington.

